

Historic, Archive Document

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Home for Wildlife

Snags are used for:

- exterior nesting (birds of prey, brown creepers)
- interior (cavity) nesting (song birds, woodpeckers, squirrels)
- hunting perches (birds of prey, flycatchers)
- perching and singing (songbirds)
- communication (woodpeckers)
- food storage (small mammals)
- protection from weather (many groups)
- food source (insect eating birds)
- resting (bats, birds of prey, most groups)
- roosting (birds of prey, turkey, bandtail pigeon)

Spare That Snag

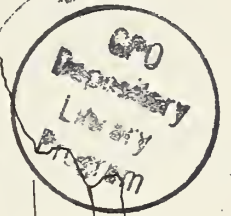
Reserve
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United States
Department of
Agriculture

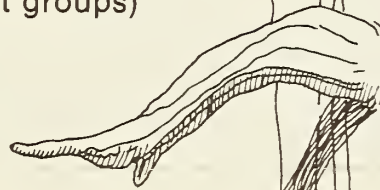
Forest
Service

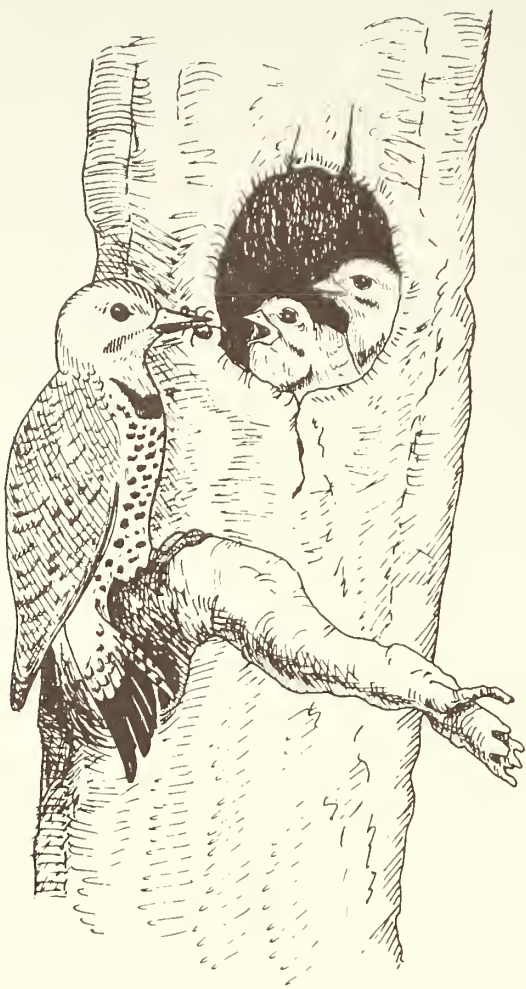
Intermountain
Region

Ogden,
Utah



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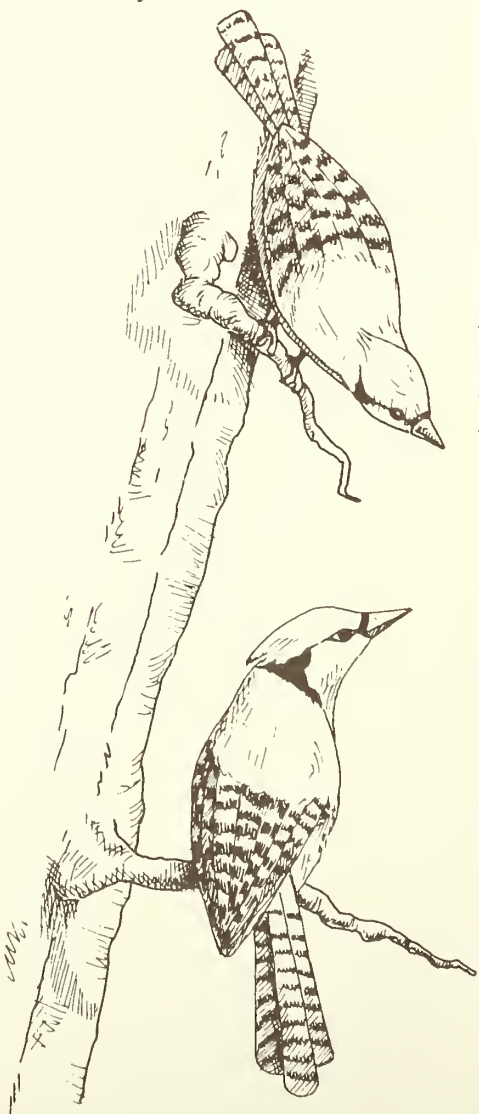
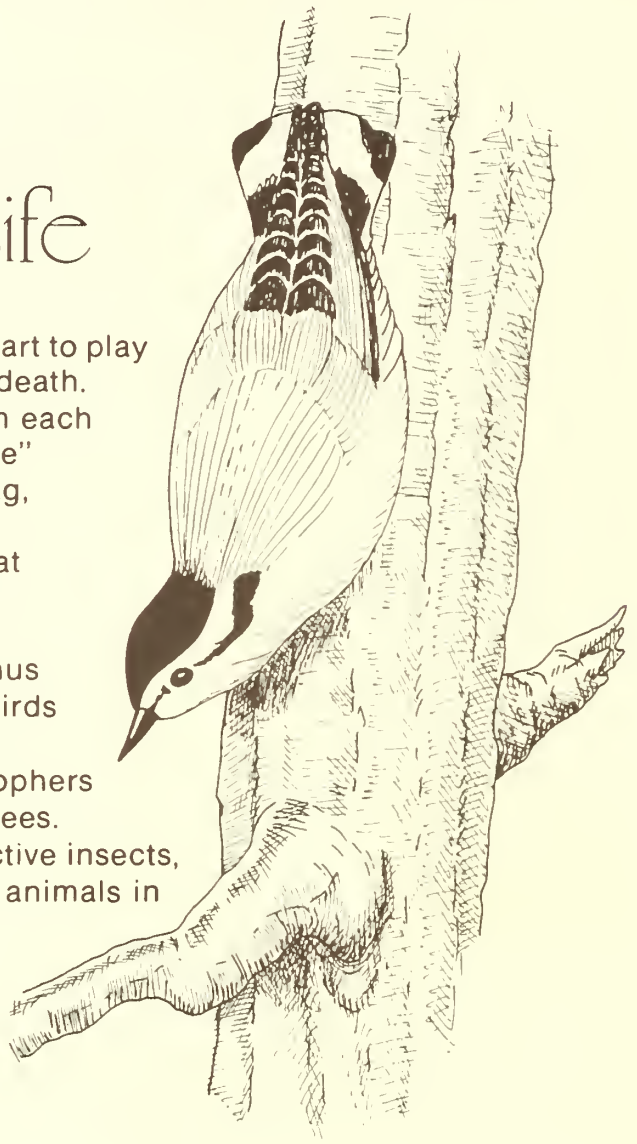
Cavity Nesters

Primary cavity nesters - Animals in this group can construct or make their own holes in snags. Examples include woodpeckers and nuthatches. Some primary cavity nesters excavate more than one hole annually. Many of these cavities are subsequently used by other wildlife.

Secondary cavity nesters - Animals in this group utilize old abandoned holes which were excavated by primary cavity nesters. Secondary cavity nesters include bluebirds, swallows, small owls, kestrels, and several flycatchers. These animals are dependent upon primary cavity nesters to provide them with suitable nesting holes from year to year.

The Cycle of Life

Each thing in nature has its place and part to play in the ever changing cycle of life and death. Snags and the wildlife that utilize them each play one or more roles in the "life cycle". Often the process which creates the snag, such as death-dealing insect attacks, provide food for the wildlife species that eventually utilize the snag for a home. Over 30 snag - associated species of birds and mammals feed on insects, thus helping to keep them in check. Most birds of prey that utilize snags live on small mammals such as mice, rabbits and gophers which are often destroyers of young trees. So the snag, often the result of destructive insects, plays a role in the control of the other animals in the cycle of life.



Meeting Wildlife Needs

Habitat requirements of the various wildlife that use snags for nesting vary. Although snags do present some degree of a fire hazard, management guidelines must be tailored to fit the local needs of the particular kind of wildlife found in your area. For this reason you should contact the Forest Service office in your local area before cutting snags for fuel wood.



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Uses of Snags

Snags provide homes for many kinds of wildlife. Included in the total are the following:

- 19 birds of prey
- 9 kinds of woodpeckers
- 5 kinds of ducks
- 22 kinds of songbirds
- 15 kinds of small mammals
(including bats)
- 3 kinds of furbearers
- 6 kinds of squirrels
and chipmunks

